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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #7041-83  
29 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Stanley M. Moskowitz  
National Intelligence Officer for USSR-EE

SUBJECT : Soviet Attitudes

The attached is very much worth perusing. The basic message is that the USSR's people, as well as leaders, operate under a very different ethncal code or ideal than we do -- best summed-up as "the ends justify the means." This difference is continually reflected in our interaction with the Soviets and it clearly influences how the USSR approaches the world. The KAL shoot down is a classic example. The discussion of how the Soviets handled a hostage situation at a Moscow airport is a fascinating case that illustrates the different approaches to life. For us, saving the lives of the hostages would be paramount; for Soviet authorities the hostages were incidental to ensuring that the culprits were thwarted and punished. The KAL shoot down again comes to mind.



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Stanley M. Moskowitz

cc: C/NIC  
VC/NIC (HM)  
VC/NIC (CW)

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